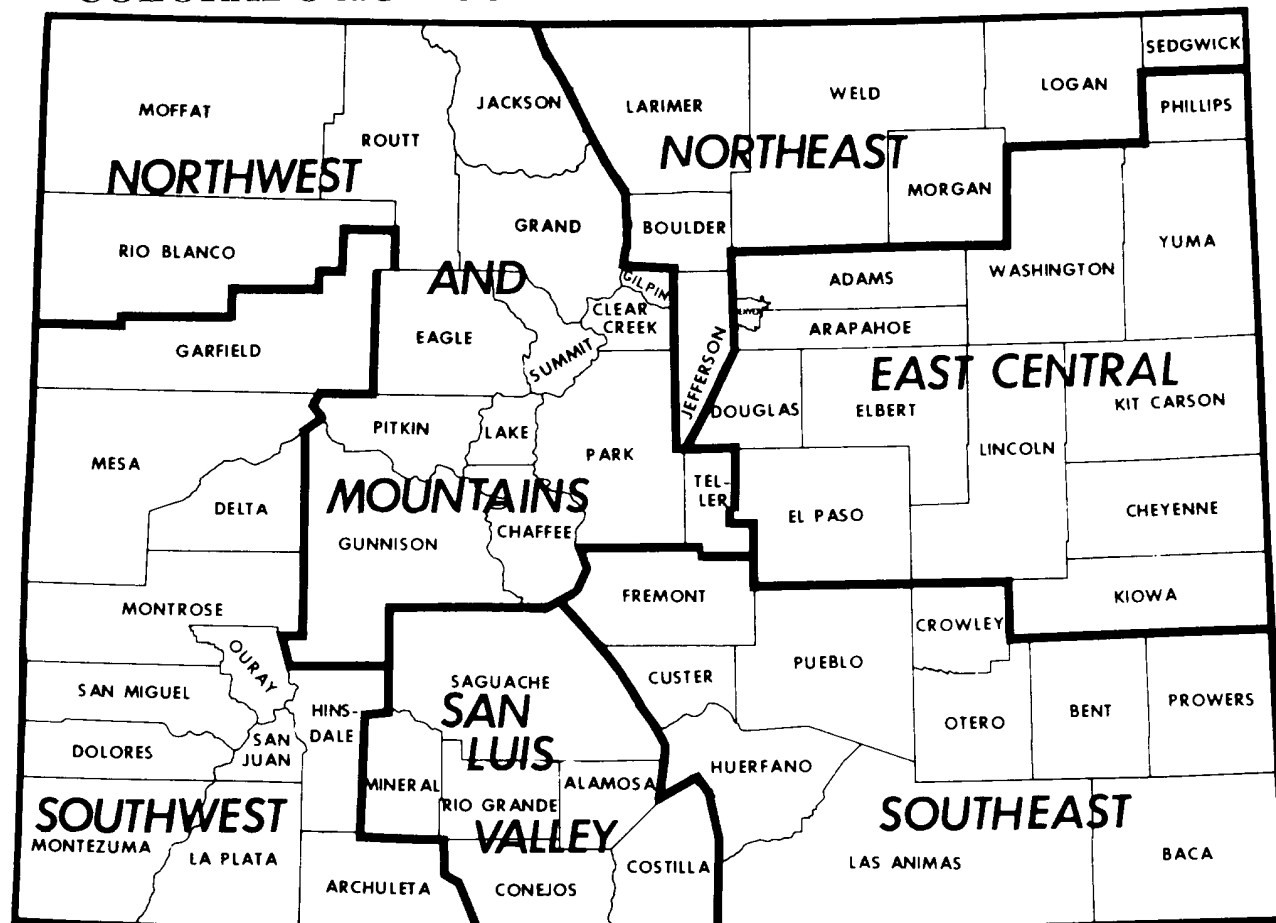


## COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS



ASD by Number: Northwest and Mountains = 10; Northeast = 20; East Central = 60; Southwest = 70;  
San Luis Valley = 80; Southeast = 90

## COLORADO

The Centennial State, admitted to the Union in 1876, is the eighth largest state in area and has the highest average elevation. The highest point is at Mount Elbert, 14,433 feet above sea level, one of the 53 "fourteeners" rising above 14,000 feet. The lowest elevation is 3,350 feet in extreme eastern Prowers County.

Approximate Land Area: 66.3 Million Acres \*  
Approximate Cropland Area: 10.5 Million Acres \*  
Approximate Irrigated Area: 3.4 Million Acres \*  
Number of Farms and Ranches (1998): 29,500  
Land in Farms and Ranches (1998): 32.2 Million Acres  
Average Size of Farm and Ranch (1998): 1,092 Acres

### Farms by Type \*

82%	Individual
10%	Partnership
7%	Corporate
1%	Other

### Farms By Tenure \*

58%	Full Owners
30%	Part Owners
12%	Tenants

### Farms By Class \*

57%	Livestock & Poultry
43%	Crops

\* 1997 Federal Census of Agriculture

Farm Marketing Receipts (1997):	\$ 4,214.9	Million
Livestock & Livestock Products:	\$ 2,874.7	Million (68.2% of the total)
Field, Fruit, & Vegetable Crops:	\$ 1,340.2	Million (31.8% of the total)

# COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

1998 Preliminary - 1997 Revised

*and*

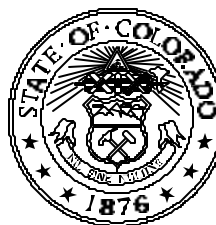
**Annual Report 1998-99**  
**Colorado Department of Agriculture**

Issued Cooperatively By



National Agricultural Statistics Service

DONALD M. BAY, Administrator



**COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
AGRICULTURE**

DON AMENT, Commissioner

Prepared and Published by

**COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**

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Charles A. Hudson, State Statistician

Lance A. Fretwell, Deputy State Statistician

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Special appreciation for funding the color cover on this publication and contributing to the "Colorado Wheat Story" on pages 4 and 5 is extended to:*

**COLORADO WHEAT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

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Phone: (303) 721-3300 FAX: (303) 721-7555

**Larry Palser**, President  
**Darrell Hanavan**, Executive Director

July 1999

Price \$10.00

# STATE OF COLORADO

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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(303) 239-4125 FAX



Bill Owens  
Governor

Don Ament  
Commissioner

Robert G. McLavey  
Deputy Commissioner

July, 1999

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping make the Colorado Agricultural Statistics book possible. I want the citizens of this state to know who we are and how vital our industry is to this state's economic and cultural fabric. This book shows how much you give to this state, the nation and the world.

While Colorado's economy has been booming, the agricultural industry has been struggling economically and is under extreme pressure by well-intentioned environmental advocates. This state's high quality environment is as important, if not more important, to farmers and ranchers as it is to those who live in the city. All of us want to preserve our natural resources, especially those who depend on them for their livelihood. I am working for reasonable environmental protection measures that do not impose an undue hardship on the very industry that provides the wildlife habitat and resource stewardship that are so critical to our future quality of life.

With the number of people in farming and ranching decreasing, our voice is harder to hear. I am asking each and every one of you to take the time out of your busy days to speak on behalf of agriculture to your state representatives and senators and every one else who will listen. Only together will they hear our voice and give us an opportunity to help shape the future.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's Annual Report, outlining the department's responsibilities, activities and services is in the back of this book. Some of the agriculture department's hot issues this fiscal year have been: regulation of swine production, state land stewardship trust, world trade, public lands grazing, the Food Quality Protection Act, animal diseases, animal cruelty, noxious weed management, risk-based inspection, pricing and scanning accuracy, information technology and Colorado Peak Performance. Please take a minute to read about our challenges and progress. You are always welcome to call us at 1-800-886-7683 and give us your comments.

Thank you for supporting Colorado's agricultural industry.

Sincerely,

Don Ament  
Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture

## COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE



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July 1999

On behalf of the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service I am proud to present "*Colorado Agricultural Statistics 1999*". This publication which tells the story of the importance of the agricultural industry in Colorado is produced through a formal cooperative agreement between the Colorado Department of Agriculture and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This cooperation between these two State and Federal agencies has provided agricultural decision makers in Colorado with timely, accurate, and unbiased agricultural statistics continuously for the past 80 years.

"*Colorado Agricultural Statistics 1999*" is especially meaningful to me in that it not only represents 80 years of cooperation between USDA and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, but it also caps my 36 year career as an agricultural statistician. For the past 13 years, I have been privileged to serve Colorado's farmers and ranchers, agri-businesses, and agricultural decision makers as your State Statistician. On October 1, 1999, I will officially retire from USDA, but plan to continue to be involved in the agricultural industry in some way.

I have been privileged over the past 13 years to meet many of the thousands of Colorado farmers and ranchers who have helped make this publication possible by providing information on the agricultural surveys conducted by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. A special thanks to each of you who help us provide this important information to agricultural producers, agri-businesses, policy makers, and the public so that sound business and policy decisions can be made based on the real facts rather than speculation and rumors. A special thanks also is extended to the many important agricultural organizations in the State who continually strive to improve the information flow to producers and policy makers. Those of us who have chosen agriculture as our life's vocation will continue to be challenged to tell the "*real story about Agriculture*". We need more than ever to be equipped with timely, unbiased and accurate information.

Special thanks this year is extended to the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee who have helped sponsor this year's publication. It has been an honor and genuine pleasure to work with all of you during my career.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Hudson  
State Statistician

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